

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DEA HQTRS WASHDC

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DRUG ABUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 2110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR AMED

SUBJ: EA AMERICAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE EAST ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP MET IN KUALA LUMPUR APRIL 6-8 TO REVIEW THE DRUG ABUSE SITUATION IN THE OVERSEAS COMMUNITIES OF THIS REGION AND TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AND REDUCE SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONG THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY DRUG ABUSE. THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED:

A) DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS HAVE EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES AND WILL CONTINUE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE;

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B) SEVERAL AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HAVE DEVELOPED

VALUABLE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE AND TO MINIMIZE ITS IMPACT WHERE TOTAL PREVENTION IS UNREALISTIC;

C) THESE PROGRAMS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE USG.

2. IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY:

--THE CONTINUING HUMAN COST TO BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICANS OVERSEAS OF UNCHECKED DRUG ABUSE IS SIGNIFICANT;

--DRUG PROBLEMS AMONG OVERSEAS AMERICANS AFFECT THE REPUTATION AND PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED STATES;

--HOST GOVERNMENT RECEPTIVITY TO U.S. INVESTMENT IS, IN PART, RELATED TO OUR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO HANDLE OUR OWN COMMUNITY PROBLEMS;

--WELL PLANNED AND COORDINATED PROGRAMS TO CURB DRUG ABUSE AMONG AMERICANS PROVIDE A HELPFUL SUPPLEMENT TO DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES MADE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO OVERALL NARCOTICS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE CONTROL OF ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC;

--THE VALUE OF EARLY INTERVENTION IS THAT IT HELPS TO PREVENT THE MORE SEVERE EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE INCLUDING COSTLY, PREMATURE TRANSFERS, JAIL SENTENCES UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS, OR INADEQUATE OR COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT IN LOCAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS;

--AMERICANS ABROAD LIVE IN AN ALIEN ENVIRONMENT AND ARE EXPOSED TO A MUCH GREATER RISK THAN IN THE UNITED STATES OFTEN DUE TO A READILY AVAILABLE SUPPLY OF CHEAP, PURE HEROIN AND OTHER DRUGS. AT THE SAME TIME, LOCAL LAWS ARE OFTEN VERY SEVERE;

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--NECESSARY COUNSELING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO AMERICANS WITH DRUG PROBLEMS CANNOT BE PROVIDED THROUGH NORMAL CONSULAR FUNCTIONS.

3. THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND POSTS CONCERNED URGENTLY REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF THESE POINTS WHEN THE FY 77 BUDGET DECISIONS FOR AMERICAN PROGRAMS ARE MADE. EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS A SPECIFIC LEVEL OF FUNDING IS THE

NEED FOR SUSTAINED, STABLE ORGANIZATIONAL AND DOLLAR SUPPORT DURING THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE SUMS INVOLVED ARE NOT LARGE, AND USG CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE UP ONLY A PORTION, OFTEN NOT THE MAJOR PORTION, OF EACH COMMUNITY'S PROGRAM. WITHOUT VISIBLE, CONSISTENT INTEREST AND A MINIMUM FUNDING BASE FROM ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS SECURED BY THE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE.

4. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT POSTS ARE INVITED TO COMMENT ON THIS REPORT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR OWN PARTICULAR COMMUNITY SITUATIONS.
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